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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/467)*]

71/240. Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 69/233 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also its resolutions 70/193 of 22 December 2015, entitled "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017", 70/196 of 22 December 2015 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America and 70/200 of 22 December 2015, entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism",

[1] Resolution 60/1.

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Recalling further the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the latter of which, inter alia, highlighted the need to promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[3] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[5]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, [6] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[9] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[10] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[11] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[12] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[13] the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[14] the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[15] and the outcome document of the second United Nations

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[2] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[6] Resolution 55/2.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[10] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[11] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[12] Resolution 65/1.

[13] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[14] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35.

[15] Resolution 69/15, annex.

Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[16]

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Recognizing that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of women and young people and promoting rural development and better living conditions for rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Recalling the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012,[17] welcoming the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the Framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[18]

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents, in many countries, an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation for all, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can contribute directly to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism

[16] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[17] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

[18] A/71/173.

activities, in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and young people, and can create significant opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and/or the protection of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Encourages* all stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including women and young people in all tourism operations, including ecotourism activities, in the light of their expertise and knowledge;

8. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines, institutions and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

9. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

10. *Encourages* Member States to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources and the promotion of investment and entrepreneurship in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national development policies and legislation, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, women and young people, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities and local communities in all areas, including rural areas;

11. *Encourages* the development of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of tourism diversification, including through public-private partnerships, as a way to foster job creation for local communities, the preservation of their way of life, culture and heritage and the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development, while simultaneously inviting Member States to take measures to protect the environment and the sociocultural heritage of a destination;

12. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

13. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

14. *Also underlines* the need to foster resilient tourism development to deal with shocks, taking into account that the tourism sector is vulnerable to emergencies, and invites Member States to develop national strategies for rehabilitation after shocks, including through private-public cooperation and the diversification of activities and products;

15. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions that affect them, and where consented to, by integrating their knowledge, heritage and values into sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

16. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women, including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

17. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help to ensure the equal participation of young people, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, young people, persons with disabilities and older persons in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

18. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular when it comes to eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

19. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

20. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environmental protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

21. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

22. *Encourages* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations, within existing mandates and resources, the public and private sectors and other relevant stakeholders to develop awareness-raising materials that target local development, the empowerment of women and indigenous peoples and youth entrepreneurship and innovation, in order to ensure the sustainability of the tourism sector and its contribution to the country's development objectives;

24. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and micro, small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

25. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

26. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

27. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and the tourism sector to improve efforts to regularly measure, as appropriate, the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in order to allow more evidence-based decision-making, replicability and scalability at the local and national levels, especially in the context of other economic activities, and with the use of innovative technologies to address sociocultural and environmental impacts, and stresses the need for capacity-building for developing countries in this regard;

28. *Encourages* improved marketing and communication on sustainable practices for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in order to enhance decision-making by consumers regarding their needs, in line with the objective of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, taking

into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field, unless otherwise agreed.

66th plenary meeting
21 December 2016